



## Association for Children of New Jersey

35 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102  
[www.acnj.org](http://www.acnj.org)

(973) 643-3876  
[www.kidlaw.org](http://www.kidlaw.org)

### **Information and Resources for Individuals Arriving from Hurricane Katrina Stricken Areas**

**This fact sheet is intended to provide information and resources to families and individuals who have relocated to New Jersey from Hurricane Katrina ravaged areas.**

#### **Public School Enrollment for School Aged Children (5-20 statewide; 3-21 with special needs; 3-20 for students residing in Abbott School Districts)**

Families who have lost their permanent residence in this storm and are being housed by friends or family in New Jersey are considered "homeless". (N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.3) The McKinney Act, a federal law, guarantees homeless children the same access to a free public education that is available to other students. The parent of the child can enroll the child in the public school in the community in which they are residing.

Families who have moved to New Jersey should go to the local school and advise it of their presence and address. The owner/renter/leasee should accompany the parent to verify the living arrangements. For more information see ACNJ's fact sheet "[Enrolling a Child in School](#)" and other fact sheets at [www.kidlaw.org](http://www.kidlaw.org) or contact ACNJ's Children's Legal Resource Center at (973) 643-3876.

**Immunizations** - NJ has strict requirements regarding proof of vaccination before admission to school. These requirements **may** be temporarily waived for students entering NJ from out-of-state. Katrina evacuees can be given 30 days to obtain proof of prior immunizations.

#### **Public Assistance**

For individuals and families intending to make New Jersey their permanent residence, applications will be processed through the individual county's Welfare Agency sometimes called the Board of Social Services office in the county of residence. The location of this office can be found in the Blue Pages of your phone directory or at <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/dfdcwa39.html> Applicants should bring any available proof of income and prior residence in the stricken area; however documentation is not required to obtain benefits. Applicants will be "presumed" eligible. Necessary services (food stamps, financial assistance, etc.) will be provided. For a more detailed explanation of emergency food stamp and eligibility for school meals programs go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/>

#### **Federal Benefits**

##### **Social Security/SSI/SSD**

Recipients who should/do receive payments by mail should go to the nearest Social Security office and request immediate payment. Proof of identity will be required.

Recipients who have direct deposit of benefits, but who are unable to access those bank accounts,

should also visit the nearest Social Security office to request immediate payment and make arrangements for delivery of subsequent payments.

For more information call 1-800-772-1213 or visit [www.ssa.gov/emergency/](http://www.ssa.gov/emergency/)

### **Medicare and Medicaid Services**

Normal operating procedures have been relaxed to speed the provision of health care services to the elderly, children and persons with disabilities who depend on them. If you do not have the normal documentation necessary to receive services, you will NOT be turned away. Documentation requirements will be waived and you will be presumed eligible.

For Medicaid, applicants should go to the Welfare Agency sometimes called the Board of Social Services office in the county of residence. For more information regarding Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

**Additionally**, the **Coalition on Human Needs** is maintaining a website with active links to the ever-developing federal policies and procedures for accessing services available to hurricane evacuees. Please visit [www.chn.org/issues/katrina/index.html](http://www.chn.org/issues/katrina/index.html) or call 1-202- 223-2532